REMARKS

The Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 12, 2002 (Paper No. 23). Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 to 13, and 15 to 46 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 4, and 9 to 13 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 4 and 9 to 13 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4 8 to 13 and 15 to 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,832,470 (Morita).

Claim 1 is directed to a document processing system comprising folder retaining means for retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing at least one document and existed at a position in a sort structure; new document retaining means for retaining a new document, candidate folder selecting means for selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for storing the new document as a folder to be stored, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders, notifying means for notifying said a plurality of candidate folders selected by said candidate folder selecting means to a user, and storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from the plurality of candidate folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

Advantageously and by virtue of the document processing system of Claim 1, a position in the sort structure is not changed in storing a new document in a folder selected by a user from a plurality of candidate folders.

In contrast, Morita is seen to describe document information classification that changes a hierarchical classification structure of folders and documents by relocating

folders to different levels of the classification hierarchy. The classification is based on key words.

More particularly and referring to Figure 8 of Morita, documents in document group 802 have associated key words used to determine the folder or folders for each of the documents. For example, document1 appears in the "dog", "pet" and "animal" folders as a result of classifying document1 according to a single key word classification. Referring to Figure 3, step 301 performs the single key word classification, and step 302 performs a related key word classification process, which is illustrated in Figure 9 and described beginning col. 8, line 61 of Morita. According to Morita, folders with a larger number of coincident documents are placed inside another folder (i.e., a "related key words folder"). Figure 16 illustrates the result of the related key word classification, which shows the hierarchical classification of the folders and the documents that is created using Morita.

Thus, Morita is seen to describe a document classification process using a hierarchical system of classification which creates a hierarchy of document folders arranged during the classification process. Morita is not seen to teach or to suggest the document processing system of Claim 1 wherein in storing a new document in a folder selected by a user from a plurality of candidate folders, a position in a sort structure is not changed.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 4 and 9 to 13 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The remaining pending claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Five Times Amended) A document processing system comprising:

[document] folder retaining means for retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing at least one document and existed at a position in a sort structure;

new document retaining means for retaining a new document;

candidate folder selecting means for selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for [retaining a] storing the new document as a folder to be stored, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of [the] documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders; [and]

notifying means for [providing notification of the] notifying said a plurality of candidate folders selected by said candidate folder selecting means[,] to a user; and

storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from the plurality of candidate folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders.]

4. (Five Times Amended) A document processing system comprising:

judging means for judging a similarity degree between document information of a new document to be stored and a plurality of sets of document information of

documents stored in [a folder] folders existed at a position in a sort structure;

similarity order calculating means for calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity degree judged by said judging means; and

notifying means for [providing notification of the similarity order of] notifying the plurality of folders together with the similarity order calculated by said similarity order calculating means to a user; and[,]

storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from the plurality of folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders.]

9. (Five Times Amended) A document processing method comprising the steps of:

retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing at least one document folders and existed at a position in a sort structure;

retaining a new document;

selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for [retaining a] storing the new document as a folder to be stored, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of the documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders; and

[providing notification of the] notifying said a plurality of candidate

folders selected in said selecting step to a user; and [,]

storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from said a plurality of candidate folders, without changing the position of the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders.]

10. (Five Times Amended) A document processing method comprising the steps of:

judging a similarity degree between document information of a new document to be stored and a plurality of sets of document information of documents stored in [a folder] folders existed at a position in a sort structure;

calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity degree judged in said judging step; and

[providing notification of the similarity order of] notifying the plurality of folders together with the similarity order calculated in said calculating step to a user; and [,]

storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from the plurality of folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders].

11. (Five Times Amended) A document processing method comprising the

steps of:

retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing a plurality of sets of document information and existed at a position in a sort structure;

retaining a new document;

selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for storing the new document as a folder to be stored from among the plurality of folders based on a number of sets of document information containing a keyword inputted as a search condition; and

[providing notification of the] notifying said a plurality of candidate folders selected in said selecting step to a user; and[,]

storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from said a plurality of candidate folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders.]

12. (Five Times Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing programs executing the steps of:

retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing at least one document and existed at a position in a sort structure;

retaining a new document;

selecting a plurality of candidate folders suitable for [retaining a] storing the new document as a folder to be stored, by comparing a feature of the new document with an

average of features of [the] documents stored in a folder among the plurality of folders; [and]

[providing notification of the] notifying said a plurality of candidate folders selected in said selecting step[,] to a user; and

storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from the plurality of folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders.]

13. (Five Times Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing programs executing the steps of:

judging a similarity degree between document information of a new document to be stored and a plurality of sets of document information of a plurality of documents stored in a folder, folders existed at a position in a sort structure;

calculating a similarity order of a plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity judged in said judging step; and

[providing notification of] notifying the plurality of folders together with the similarity order [of the plurality of folders] calculated in said calculating step to a user; and[,]

storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by the user from the plurality of folders, without changing the position in the sort structure.

[wherein the notification is provided in a list form including the candidate folders.]